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Ladies lead the way in Empire State Building build-out

Two Women-Owned Business Enterprises — ACC Construction and Fotopoulos Design — have successfully completed the design and build-out of a luxurious retail showroom at The Empire State Building for Tandy Brands Accessories, Inc. within a tight five-week schedule, announces Michele Medaglia, president and CEO of ACC Construction, the general contractor for the project.

Tandy brands, an international designer, manufacturer and marketer of accessories for such well known brands as Jones New York and Totes, needed the project to be completed in time for 2006 Market Week, when buyers nationwide would be visiting the showroom. ACC Construction completed the build-out a week ahead of schedule.

The construction required demolition work that

doubled the size of an existing reception area. Limestone tiling and carpeting were installed, as well as new lighting, wall coverings and painting. In addition, ACC was responsible for assembling an ornate wood reception desk with limestone top, wood product display cases and wood entrance doors. In total, upgrades were completed in 15 separate showrooms, six offices and common area corridors.

The Tandy Brands showroom is the second project in which the two WBE's have worked together at The Empire State Building.

The first one was in 1992 and comprised the renovation of the dramatic 86th floor Observatory Lobby, which is designed in the Art Deco style and

is used daily by thousands of people. "Georgia Fotopoulos is a brilliant, talented designer," says Ms. Medaglia. "She really cares about her clients and it was a pleasure to work with her on this project."

Fotopoulos commented, "It's not a 'business as usual' working with this Woman Owned Business. Ms. Medaglia is dynamic, true to her word, and she has a great personality — a rare combination of qualities."

Fotopoulos Design Inc. was founded 18 years ago by Georgia Fotopoulos, who has worked with her sister Daisy, also an architect by degree, since 1992. The firm specializes in interior architecture.

